

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 16 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended, claims 2 and 10 have been canceled and new claims 17 – 24 have been added. No new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 15, 2004.

#### **Allowable Claim Subject Matter:**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 5 of the Office Action that claims 2 – 6 and 10 - 14 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 2. Therefore, it is believed that claim 1 is now allowable and claims 7 and 8 are allowable by their respective dependency on claim 1.

In addition, it is submitted that each of claims 3 and 5 have been rewritten into independent form to include the features of base claim 1. Thus, new independent claims 3 and 5 are allowable, and claims 4, 17, 18 and 6, 19, 20 are allowable by their dependency on allowable claims 3 and 5, respectively.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 10. Therefore, it is believed that claim 9 is now allowable and claims 15 and 16 are allowable by their respective dependency on claim 9.

In addition, it is submitted that each of claims 11 and 13 have been rewritten into independent form to include the features of base claim 9. Thus, new independent claims 11 and 13 are allowable, and claims 12, 21, 22 and 14, 23, 24 are allowable by their dependency on allowable claims 11 and 13, respectively.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 2 – 9 and 11 - 24 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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